

## What Do You Get Out of It?

According to the report of the Department of Commerce for the fiscal year which ended on June 30, the United States exported to other countries \$4,465,453,898 worth of goods and received back from other countries only \$1,179,460,699, worth of goods. The trade balance, to use the language of financiers, in favor of the United States was \$3,285,993,199.

A trade balance is supposed to be a very desirable thing and a trade balance of over three billion dollars is supposed to show an extraordinary desirable state of affairs, that is, from the standpoint of the capitalist class.

But what does it mean to the workers in the shops and factories who produced the goods that are exported? That is of course quite another story.

During the years just gone by the workers in the shops and factories, in the mines and mills and on land, produced over four billion dollars worth of goods which were shipped out of the country. If the goods were shipped out of the country they did not get any good out of them. They were of no service to them. What did they get in return?

According to the same report they got something over a billion dollars worth of goods back, which leaves them three billion dollars worth of goods short.

Of course, some one will speak up to announce that the capitalists get paid in money for these goods. That is true enough, but that doesn't help the workers any. Money is only valuable for what it will buy. We do not eat or wear the money itself, and in this instance the things to eat and wear and use otherwise have been shipped elsewhere and the money does not make good the loss to the workers.

What actually happens as a result of an export of a surplus over imports is that the capitalists become the creditors of other nations and draw interest on their credit balances, but this does not help the workers any. It doesn't give them more shoes, or more food, or more of any other kind of goods, although it does enrich the capitalist class.

The trade balance in favor of this country is an actual evidence to the workers showing them how much they are robbed by the capitalist system of production.

## "Our Government"

A One Act Sketch.  
By H. E. Keas.

Time: The present.

Place: Board of Directors room, large industrial plant.

(Directors, general manager and superintendent are seated around a long table in the center of the room. The plant has been closed several weeks in an effort to break union labor through an "open shop" campaign. They are in the midst of a heated discussion as to the best means to accomplish this, when the door opens and a group of workingmen, caps in hand, are ushered into the room.)

Chairman Of The Board: (irritated by the interruption, irascibly addresses the leader of the group) "Well? Speak out man! What do you want?"

Worker: (hesitatingly, yet not without determination) Sir, the plant has now been closed longer than we can stand it. Can't it again be opened? We are near starvation's door. Our wives and children are crying for bread. Won't you meet with us, sir, that we may find a way to come to an understanding?"

Chairman: (vehemently and with a sneer) Come to an understanding, huh? We can have our understanding right here. The plant will stay closed until we break every damned union in the field. You fellows were getting too infernally independent and now you can take your medicine. We are on strike. Get that? ON STRIKE!"

Worker: (rather taken aback by this explosion, but naively continues) "But, Sir, have you considered the consequences? Might not the government get an injunction and perhaps send you to jail for unlawful restraint of production? That is what happens to us workingmen when we go on strike." (the other workmen nod assent).

Chairman: (winks at his associates, then breaks out into ribald laughter) "Injunction! Ha, Ha! Jail! Oh, Lord, this is rich! Ho, ho, ho, ho! Haw, haw, haw, haw! Why, you poor simp

WE BUSINESSMEN ARE THE GOVERNMENT!

(Curtain.)